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7	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON		
8	AT SEATTLE		
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10	INTELLICHECK MOBILISA, INC.,	CASE NO. C16-0341JLR	
11	Plaintiff,	ORDER	
12	V.		
13	HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC.,		
14	Defendant.		
15			
16	I. INTRODUCTION		
17	Before the court is Defendant Honeywell International Inc.'s ("Honeywell")		
18	motion to dismiss Plaintiff Intellicheck Mobilisa, Inc.'s ("Intellicheck") second amended		
19	complaint. (3d MTD (Dkt. # 82).) The court has considered the motion, the parties'		
20	submissions in support of and in opposition to the motion to dismiss, the relevant		
	portions of the record, and the applicable law. Neither party has requested oral argument.		
21	Being fully advised, the court DENIES Honeywell's motion to dismiss.		
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#### II. BACKGROUND

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This case concerns allegations of patent infringement. Intellicheck provides wireless technology and identity systems for various applications, including patented echnology that instantly authenticates government-issued identification documents." SAC (Dkt. #74) ¶9.) In other words, Intellicheck's patented technology allows sustomers to determine whether government-issued IDs are authentic. (See id.) ntellicheck protects this patented technology through ownership of five patents: (1) Jnited States Patent No. 7,478,067 ("the '067 Patent"); (2) United States Patent No. ,864,623 ("the '623 Patent"); (3) United States Patent No. 6,463,416 ("the '416 atent"); (4) United States Patent No. 6,920,437 ("the '437 Patent"); and (5) United tates Patent No. 7,899,751 ("the '751 Patent") (collectively, "the Patents-in-suit"). (Id. 11.) Intellicheck claims that it provided information on the patented technology and the atents-in-suit to several individuals, all of whom subsequently became Honeywell mployees. (Id.  $\P$  15.) Intellicheck believes that at least some of these individuals orked in the Honeywell division that developed the accused products. (Id.) Intellicheck initially brought suit against Honeywell on March 7, 2016, alleging rious counts of patent infringement under theories of direct, induced, and contributory fringement. (See generally Compl. (Dkt. #1).) Honeywell moved to dismiss tellicheck's induced and contributory infringement claims. (MTD (Dkt. #25) at 2-3.) Subsequently, Intellicheck amended its complaint (FAC (Dkt. #30)), which Honeywell again challenged by filing a motion to dismiss; in this second motion to dismiss. Honeywell attacked all asserted claims (2d MTD (Dkt. #37) at 1-4).

The parties then filed a stipulated motion to temporarily stay the matter and extend the trial date for six months to explore the possibility of settlement. (Stip. Mot. (Dkt. # 48) at 1-2.) The court declined to stay the case but extended the trial date as requested and denied Honeywell's pending motions as moot without prejudice to renewing those motions at a later date. (10/28/16 Order (Dkt. # 49) at 1-2.) During the ensuing period, the parties engaged in negotiations but ultimately failed to reach a settlement. (Sanks Decl. (Dkt. # 58)  $\P$  2.)

After settlement negotiations broke down, Intellicheck sought leave to file a second amended complaint (MTA (Dkt. # 57)), which the court granted on August 30, 2017 (8/30/17 Order (Dkt. #73)). In the second amended complaint, Intellicheck drops its contributory infringement claims and instead brings ten counts of infringement against Honeywell, alleging that Honeywell's development and sale of various accused products directly and indirectly infringed upon the five Patents-in-suit. (SAC ¶ 13.) Honeywell moves to dismiss all ten counts for failure to state a claim under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). (See generally 3d MTD.) The court now reviews Intellicheck's allegations of direct and indirect infringement.

# A. Direct Infringement Counts

# 1. Count I: Direct Infringement of the '067 Patent

Intellicheck asserts in Count I that Honeywell directly infringes Claim 2 of the '067 Patent. (SAC ¶¶ 34-46.) Claim 2 is a dependent claim that builds upon Claim 1; together, the two claims protect an apparatus with (1) an "information reader" that reads information from a driver license issued by a certain jurisdiction, with that information

having a "predetermined format corresponding to said jurisdiction" (*id.*, Ex. A ("'067 Patent") 14:63-67)<sup>1</sup>; (2) equipment that receives the read information and determines whether that information "comports with said predetermined format" and outputs the information to a remote location through a signal path for further processing ('067 Patent 15:1-7); and (3) said information reader that reads a driver license containing "machine readable information." (*id.* 15:8-10).

Intellicheck asserts that Honeywell's scanners that are preinstalled with the Easy DL software "read[] the machine readable information from a driver license via the barcode on the back of the driver license" and then "determine[] whether the information read comports with the predetermined format for that specific jurisdiction (i.e. the State of Washington)," using "the data received from the American Association for Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA)." (*E.g.*, SAC ¶ 39.)² The information is then allegedly sent to a "remote location" such as a host computer "via a signal path" for further processing. (*See, e.g., id.*) Intellicheck emphasizes that Honeywell's scanners can "read the machine readable information . . . from the driver license." (*See, e.g., id.*) Intellicheck seeks to recover damages sustained from these allegedly infringing acts. (*Id.* ¶¶ 44-46.)

<sup>19</sup> The court may consider the patents, which are attached to the operative complaint, in determining whether Intellicheck has adequately alleged facts in support of its claims. *See Durning v. First Boston Corp.*, 815 F.2d 1265, 1267 (9th Cir. 1987).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Throughout its complaint, Intellicheck repeats the same allegations of direct infringement for each accused product. (*See id.* ¶¶ 39-43.) Thus, the court recounts the allegations once and uses "e.g." to signal when Intellicheck restates those allegations for other accused products.

## 2. Count III: Direct Infringement of the '623 Patent

Count III alleges that Honeywell directly infringed Claims 1 and 15 of the '623 Patent. (*Id.* ¶ 62.) Claim 1 protects an apparatus that authenticates documents and can: (1) read the information on the document; (2) determine whether the document has a format that corresponds to a reference format by comparing the two formats; (3) "pars[e]" the read information into "jurisdictional segments" to then compare against the "predetermined values" of reference jurisdictional segments; (4) compare the read information to determine whether the jurisdictional segments match the predetermined values; and (5) generate a verification signal if there is a match between the two checksums. (*Id.*, Ex. B ("'623 Patent") 15:14-41.) Claim 15 protects the method for authenticating a driver license, comprised of the steps that are listed in Claim 1. (*See* '623 Patent 16:49-17:7.)

As to Claim 1, Intellicheck alleges that Honeywell's products read the information on the document and determine "whether the document format corresponds to the format from the issuing jurisdiction." (E.g., SAC  $\P$  62.) The scanners purportedly parse the read information to determine whether or not the information matches the predetermined values. (E.g., id.) Additionally, the product "completes a checksum wherein the scanner compares the human recognizable information with the machine coded information" and "generates a signal" if there is a match. (E.g., id.) Moreover, Intellicheck pleads that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The parties agree that a "checksum" is a "value that is used to test for tampering or alteration of information and is calculated by sequentially combining the constituent parts of a chunk of data with a series of arithmetic or logical operations." (Jt. Claim Constr. St. (Dkt. # 85) at 2.)

Honeywell utilizes the method protected by Claim 15 in product testing, where the products are used to read information from a driver's license; determine whether the license format matches the format of a certain jurisdiction; parses the information into jurisdictional segments; and compares the information to ensure a match. (E.g., id. ¶ 63.) The products are also used to compare two checksums and generate a signal if the information matches. (E.g., id.)

## 3. Count V: Direct Infringement of the '416 Patent

Count V alleges direct infringement of Claim 4 of the '416 Patent. Claim 4 protects a method of authenticating identification documents, wherein (1) "information segments included in said identification document" are extracted; (2) reference data from a storage means is retrieved; (3) the format of the extracted information segments is compared to the format of the retrieved reference data; (4) if the formats match, the information segment is compared to "a predetermined acceptance criteria"; and (5) a signal is provided if the predetermined acceptance criteria is met. (*Id.*, Ex. C ("'416 Patent") 15:58-16:13.)

Intellicheck asserts that Honeywell infringes Claim 4 in its product testing processes because the products are used to "authenticate a portion of an identification document" by extracting the information to be checked; determining whether the information is in the same format as the reference data; and calculates the necessary information to determine whether the information meets a certain "predetermined acceptance criteria." (SAC ¶ 86.) For example, Intellicheck alleges that Honeywell's product will extract a date of birth from the ID; determine whether format of the date of

birth conforms with the known format for the jurisdiction; and then calculate an age and signal whether that information meets the age cutoff. (See id.)

## 4. Count VII: Direct Infringement of the '437 Patent

Count VII alleges that Honeywell directly infringes Claim 14 of the '437 Patent. (*Id.* ¶¶ 104-15.) Claim 14 protects "[a] method for reading information from a driver license for use in an age-restricted activity." (*Id.*, Ex. D ("'437 Patent") 16:5-6.) The steps consist of: (1) reading "machine readable information" from the license; (2) determining an "identifier" from the information that corresponds to the issuing jurisdiction of the license; (3) extracting the date of birth and expiration date using the identifier; (4) checking either the date of birth or expiration date against a predetermined value for conformance; (5) if the check is successful, calculating the age and displaying that age along with an indication that the license conforms; and (6) if the check is unsuccessful, displaying an indication that the license does not conform. ('437 Patent 16:8-29.)

Intellicheck alleges that Honeywell uses the accused products in product testing to "read information from a driver's license[] for age-restricted activities." (E.g., SAC ¶ 108.) Intellicheck claims that these products read machine readable information from a driver license and determine whether that information matches the AAMVA; extracts the date of birth and expiration date; verifies whether the date of birth is in the known format and checks for conformance; and calculates the age. (E.g., id.) Then, the products signal "whether the license is valid and whether the person is old enough to purchase alcohol." (E.g., id.)

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5. Count IX: Direct Infringement of the '751 Patent

Count IX alleges that Honeywell directly infringed Claims 22 and 32 of the '751 Patent. Claim 22 protects "non-transitory computer memories" that are encoded with "an identification data structure and a reference data structure" and used to "determine whether an individual is authorized to perform an activity." (Id., Ex. E ("'751 Patent") 16:42-45.) To make this determination, the identification data structure captures information read from an ID that conforms to "an established format of a jurisdiction" and uses an Issuer Identification Number to determine what jurisdiction issued the ID. ('751 Patent 16:45-52.) The reference data structure contains information on a number of jurisdictional formats; when the established format is one of the jurisdictional formats in the reference data structure, the reference data structure parses and populates the identification data structure with the read identification information. (Id. 16:52-56.)

Claim 32 protects "a portable device" with (1) a "reader component" that reads portions of machine-readable information from an ID, including the Issuer Identification Number; (2) a "reference component" that specifies the format of the issuing jurisdiction; (3) a "parser component" to parse the read information according to the specific format; (4) a "conformance component" that compares the parsed information to a set value; and (5) an "output component" that shows the result of the comparison. (*Id.* 17:19-18:3.)

Intellicheck claims that Honeywell's products infringe Claims 22 and 32. The products are used with a computer and access point to read information from a driver's license and identify the issuer of the license through its Issuer Identification Number. (E.g., SAC  $\P$  131.) The products then parse the information from the license into

segments to determine whether the person is authorized to perform the transaction. (*E.g.*, *id.*) The product then will indicate whether or not the person is authorized. (*E.g.*, *id.*)

### **B.** Indirect Infringement Counts

Intellicheck pairs each of the above direct infringement counts with a count of indirect infringement of the respective patent. (*See id.* ¶¶ 47-57 (Count II alleging indirect infringement of the '067 Patent).) Each count claiming indirect infringement repeats the same allegations: Intellicheck claims that Honeywell "actively and knowingly" induced others to make, use, or sell the accused products; licensed the products to others and provided instructions that enabled licensees to practice the claimed instructions; and advertised and promoted the accused products in a way that instructed customers to practice the claimed inventions. (*E.g.*, id. ¶ 50.) For instance, Honeywell literature purportedly instructs users on how to use its products and the accompanying software, and Intellicheck claims that Honeywell customers are "following Honeywell's instructions and using the accused products to authenticate driver's licenses." (*E.g.*, id. ¶¶ 51-52.) Due to the harm sustained from this indirect infringement, Intellicheck seeks damages, as well as attorney's fees if applicable. (*E.g.*, ¶ 57.)

Intellicheck asserts that Honeywell had actual notice of the various Patents-in-suits through Honeywell employees who previously worked with Intellicheck. (*Id.* ¶¶ 15-30.) For instance, Intellicheck alleges that Honeywell had notice of the '623 Patent and the '416 Patent as early as 2007, when Honeywell acquired a company that previously contracted with Intellicheck. (*Id.* ¶ 16.) Intellicheck claims that it had provided several employees of the acquired company with its patent and patent applications, including

both the '623 and '416 Patents. (*Id.*) Similarly, Intellicheck claims that Honeywell received notice of the '437 Patent through a former Intellicheck employee who was hired by Honeywell in December 2010. (*Id.* ¶ 24.)

As for the '067 and '751 Patents, Intellicheck pleads that Honeywell had actual notice "at least as of the date of receiving [Intellicheck's] notice letter<sup>4</sup> on March 8, 2016[,] which was forty-five (45) days before being served with the Complaint on April 22, 2016." (*Id.* ¶¶ 27, 29.) Thus, Intellicheck claims that Honeywell's continued acts of inducement were done after Honeywell was aware of these Patent-in-suits and with the knowledge that its acts constituted patent infringement. (*See id.* ¶¶ 28, 30.)

#### III. ANALYSIS

Honeywell challenges all ten counts brought by Intellicheck. (*See generally* 3d MTD.) Honeywell asserts that the direct infringement counts fail to state a claim under Rule 12(b)(6). (*See id.* at 3-4.) Furthermore, because each indirect infringement count requires that direct infringement is occurring, Honeywell concludes that the failure to adequately plead the direct infringement counts renders the indirect infringement counts insufficient as well. (*Id.* at 4.) Moreover, Honeywell argues that the indirect infringement counts fail because Intellicheck does not sufficiently allege Honeywell's knowledge of the Patents-in-suit and their infringement, or that Honeywell took affirmative steps to induce others to infringe. (*Id.* at 4-5.) For the reasons below, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A notice letter generally informs the putative infringing party of potential infringement. Here, Intellicheck claims that the notice letter included a copy of the complaint and sought to "amicably resolve the issues raised in the [c]omplaint prior to serving the [c]ompliant." (Resp. at 1.)

court concludes that Intellicheck has adequately pleaded both its direct and indirect infringement counts and therefore denies Honeywell's motion.

### A. Legal Standard

Prior to December 1, 2015, the Federal Circuit directed district courts to judge direct infringement allegations by whether they meet the standard set forth in Form 18 of the Appendix of Forms to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, not by whether they satisfy the more stringent pleading standard set forth in *Bell Atlantic Corporation v*. *Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544 (2007) and *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662 (2009). *Atlas IP LLC v. Pac. Gas & Elec. Co.*, No. 15-cv-05469-EDL, 2016 WL 1719545, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 9, 2016). However, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that took effect on December 1, 2015, effectively abrogated this practice. *Id.* at \*2. Thus, "Form 18 no longer provides a safe harbor for pleading direct infringement." *Incom Corp. v. Walt Disney Co.*, No. CV15-3011 PSG (MRWx), 2016 WL 4942032, at \*3 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 4, 2016). Allegations of direct infringement are now subject to the same pleading standards that govern any other claim brought in federal court. *Id.* 

Accordingly, here, dismissal for failure to state a claim "is proper if there is a lack of a cognizable legal theory or the absence of sufficient facts alleged under a cognizable legal theory." *Conservation Force v. Salazar*, 646 F.3d 1240, 1242 (9th Cir. 2011) (internal quotation marks omitted). "To survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to 'state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face." *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678 (quoting *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570). "A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court

Id. Although the standard "asks for more than sheer possibility that a defendant has acted unlawfully," it is not "akin to a probability requirement." *Id.* Thus, the plausibility requirement "simply calls for enough fact[s] to raise a reasonable expectation that discovery will reveal" liability for the misconduct alleged. *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556.

When considering a motion to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), the court construes the complaint in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party. Livid Holdings Ltd. v. Salomon Smith Barney, Inc., 416 F.3d 940, 946 (9th Cir. 2005). The court must accept all well-pleaded facts as true and draw all reasonable inferences in favor of the plaintiff. Wyler Summit P'ship v. Turner Broad. Sys., Inc., 135 F.3d 658, 661 (9th Cir. 1998). "Mere conclusory statements" or "formulaic recitation[s] of the elements of a cause of action," however, "are not entitled to the presumption of truth." Chavez v. United States, 683 F.3d 1102, 1108 (9th Cir. 2012) (citing Twombly, 550 U.S. at 555). On a motion to dismiss, the court may consider the pleadings, documents attached to the pleadings, documents incorporated therein, or matters of judicial notice. United States v. Ritchie, 342 F.3d 903, 908 (9th Cir. 2003) (citing Van Buskirk v. Cable News Network, Inc., 284 F.3d 977, 980 (9th Cir. 2002)).

In the patent context, it is not enough to "[m]erely nam[e] a product and provid[e] a conclusory statement that it infringes a patent." *Incom Corp.*, 2016 WL 4942032, at \*3. "Sufficient allegations would include, at a minimum, a brief description of what the patent at issue does, and an allegation that certain named and specifically identified products or product components also do what the patent does, thereby raising a plausible

claim that the named products are infringing." *Bender v. LG Elecs. U.S.A., Inc.*, No. C09-02114 JF (PVT), 2010 WL 889541, at \*6 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 11, 2010). Such allegations would "provide enough specificity for the defendant to formulate a response" and "permit the [c]ourt to 'draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged." *Id.* (quoting *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678).

### B. Direct Infringement Counts

Honeywell contends that Intellicheck fails to plead sufficient factual allegations from which the court can infer liability for any of the direct infringement counts. (See 3d MTD at 8.) The court addresses the sufficiency of each direct infringement count.

#### 1. Count I

Honeywell argues that Intellicheck fails to state a claim in Count I because Intellicheck does not provide any factual support for whether the accused products "determin[e] whether the read information comports with said predetermined format." (3d MTD at 9-10; *see* '067 Patent 15:2-4.) The court disagrees and finds that Intellicheck has sufficiently pleaded factual allegations for the court to infer that the accused products determine whether the read information comports with a predetermined format.

Intellicheck alleges that after reading information from the barcode on the back of a driver license, the accused products then determine whether that information comports with the format of the issuing jurisdiction, such as the State of Washington, by using the

<sup>21</sup> See 2010 WL 889541, at \*6.

Although Bender was litigated before the abrogation of Form 18, the court there discussed the viability of a patent complaint under the pleading standards of Twombly and Iqbal.

data received from the AAMVA. (SAC ¶ 39.) As support, Intellicheck points to Honeywell product manuals, which state that the Honeywell software "takes the guesswork out of age verification" and supports government-issued IDs from various jurisdictions. (*Id.*, Ex. F at 1-2.) Another manual lists the various jurisdictions that the Honeywell software supports, explicitly specifying that it cannot read licenses "that do not comply with the formatting standards set forth by the [AAMVA]." (*Id.*, Ex. G at 1.)<sup>6</sup> These factual allegations, based on Honeywell's own materials, indicate that at

These factual allegations, based on Honeywell's own materials, indicate that at some point, the accused products consult the format of the issuing jurisdiction as governed by the AAMVA, and that the different formats for the different jurisdictions play a role in the accused products' ability to read the data on the license. Although Honeywell insists that neither exhibits F or G contain information regarding a predetermined format (3d MTD at 11), the inference that the listed jurisdictions may have varying formats—especially given that the AAMVA oversees formatting standards—is a reasonable one that the court is authorized to make at this stage. Thus, the court finds that such allegations are sufficient for the court to infer that the accused products determine whether the read information comports with a predetermined format.

#### 2. Count III

Honeywell contends that the allegations regarding direct infringement in Count III "gloss over the absence of some key claim element components" and "completely

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Exhibit G is an "Integration Guide" for Honeywell software with pre-assigned page numbers. (*See generally* SAC, Ex. G.) The court's citations to Exhibit G use those page numbers.

ignor[e] one whole claim element." (3d MTD at 12.) Honeywell then lists, in chart form, a comparison of the claim language with Intellicheck's pleadings. (*Id.* at 13-14.) Honeywell believes that Intellicheck fails to allege that the accused products (1) determine whether the license format corresponds to a reference license format; (2) parse the read information into jurisdictional segments; (3) ascertain the predetermined values of those jurisdictional segments; or (4) display a signal if there is a match. (*Id.* at 14-15.)

The defendant in *Incom Corporation v. Walt Disney Company* raised a similar challenge in its motion to dismiss direct infringement allegations. 2016 WL 4942032, at \*3. In that case, the defendant argued that the complaint was "too conclusory" and thus failed to state a claim. *Id.* However, the court concluded that the complaint did "more than name a product and baldly conclude that it infringes a patent which belonged to [p]laintiff." *Id.* The court observed that the plaintiff attached the patents-in-suit, described the technology in the patent, named specific infringing products, and detailed how those products performed the same function as the patented system. *Id.* Accordingly, the court concluded that the complaint stated a plausible claim for direct infringement. *Id.* 

The court reaches a similar conclusion here in regard to Count III. Like the plaintiff in *Incom*, Intellicheck has attached the patents-in-suit, described its protected technology, identified the accused products, and described how those products allegedly perform the same functions or methods that are protected by the '623 Patent. *See id*. This showing is more than a conclusory statement of infringement.

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Although Honeywell is correct that there are certain words in the '623 Patent that are not repeated verbatim in Intellicheck's complaint (see 3d MTD at 13-14), that omission hardly justifies dismissal. For instance, the '623 Patent states that the claimed invention will determine whether the format of the license information corresponds to "a reference license format." ('623 Patent 15:21-23.) The complaint describes the accused products as determining "whether the document format corresponds to the format from the issuing jurisdiction and does this using the data received from the [AAMVA]." (SAC ¶ 62.) Furthermore, the attached exhibit shows that the accused products recognize various formats, including military or Canadian IDs. (Id., Ex. F.) Although the complaint does not explicitly use the term "reference license format," the court can reasonably infer that the issuing jurisdiction format, whether that is an AAMVA format, a military ID format, or a Canadian ID format, constitutes the reference license format. Intellicheck's decision to describe the accused products rather than to restate patent language is not, as Honeywell contends, a failure to state a claim.

The same is true regarding jurisdictional segments and the predetermined values of those jurisdictional segments. Again, Intellicheck alleges in its complaint that the accused products parse the read information into "jurisdictional segments that each have predetermined values," such as the formatting of a person's name, ID number, or date of birth. (SAC ¶ 63.) Intellicheck then claims that the accused products compare the format of the read information to the predetermined format to ensure a match. (*Id.*) Such allegations are sufficient to demonstrate a plausible claim for relief. *See Atlas IP LLC*, 2016 WL 1719545, at \*2.

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Honeywell next contends that Intellicheck fails to allege a checksum comparison because the complaint does not allege the performance of arithmetic or logical operations on the read data itself. (3d MTD at 15.) Again, Honeywell makes too much of a small distinction. Intellicheck alleges that the accused products "complete[] a checksum wherein the scanner compares the human recognizable information with the machine coded information to ensure they match." (SAC ¶ 63.) This claim is sufficient for the court to infer that the accused products perform operations in the completion of a checksum, and then compare those results against each other. Indeed, the complaint uses the language "checksum *from* the human recognizable information" and "checksum *from* the machine coded information" (*id.* (emphasis added)), which implies the performance of the operations that Honeywell contends are missing from Intellicheck's allegations.

Lastly, Honeywell argues that Intellicheck fails to allege that the accused products display a verification signal upon a match. (3d MTD at 14.) This argument belies both the allegations in the complaint and the supporting exhibits. First, Intellicheck states that the accused products generate a signal to indicate the result of the check, such as outputting zeroes if the ID is expired. (SAC ¶ 63.) Second, a product manual attached to the complaint shows that an "Accepted" or "Rejected" signal is displayed after the ID is scanned by the accused product. (*Id.*, Ex. M at 9.) Accepting these allegations as true—as the court must at this stage—the court concludes that Intellicheck has demonstrated that the accused products display a verification signal.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Honeywell challenges the alleged infringement of Claim 15 for the same reasons. (*See* 3d MTD at 15-16.) The court rejects these challenges for the reasons stated above.

In sum, the court finds that Count III does more than "name a product and baldly conclude that it infringes a patent which belongs to [p]laintiff." *See Incom Corp.*, 2016 WL 4942032, at \*3. Accordingly, the court denies Honeywell's motion to dismiss this count for failure to state a claim.

# 3. Count V

Honeywell argues that Count V fails to state a claim in two ways. First, Honeywell contends that Count V fails "to allege that the accused products compare an extracted information segment to predetermined acceptance criteria." (3d MTD at 17.) Second, Honeywell purports that Count V does not plead "the existence of any storage means" or the fact that the accused products retrieve reference data from a storage means." (*Id.* at 17.) The court disagrees with both arguments.

Honeywell's first argument centers on the contention that the complaint does not allege the comparison of the extracted information itself to a predetermined acceptance criteria, but instead alleges the comparison of an age calculated from the extracted information to a predetermined acceptance criteria. (*Id.*) But the complaint states that "the information extracted" is compared to "a certain predetermined acceptance criteria." (SAC ¶ 86.) While it is true that the complaint also alleges that the products calculate the age of the person, the claim that the accused products determine "whether the information extracted meets a certain predetermined acceptance criteria" is sufficient at this stage for the court to reasonably infer that the extracted information is being compared by the accused products.

1 2 accused products utilize a storage means. Although the complaint does not utilize the words "storage means," it does allege that the accused products utilize reference 3 information, such as the various jurisdictional formats. (See SAC ¶ 86; Ex. F at 2.) 4 5 Honeywell updates this reference information, and the accused products may upload 6 these updates into the accused products. (SAC, Ex. G at 25-26.) These alleged facts 7 support the inference that the accused products maintain some storage means that keeps 8 and updates this reference information. This reasonable inference is sufficient at this 9 stage, and accordingly, the court denies the motion to dismiss this count. 10 11

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4. Count VII

Honeywell next challenges the adequacy of Count VII to state a claim of direct infringement. First, Honeywell avers that Intellicheck failed to allege any "identifier corresponding to an issuing jurisdiction of the driver license" that the accused products determine from the read information. (3d MTD at 18.) Second, Honeywell maintains that Intellicheck fails to plead that the accused products display a calculated age, as required by the '437 Patent. (Id. at 18-19.) The court again disagrees and finds that Intellicheck sufficiently alleges factual allegations to support Count VII.

Furthermore, the court does not agree that Intellicheck fails to allege that the

Count VII alleges that the accused products read machine-readable information from a driver's license. (SAC ¶ 108.) Included among the read information is the Issuer Identification Number ("IIN"), which—as the name suggests—identifies the jurisdiction that issued the license. (Id., Ex. F at 2.) Therefore, the IIN qualifies as "an identifier corresponding to an issuing jurisdiction of the driver license," as required by Claim 14 of the '437 Patent. (See '437 Patent 16:11-12.) Moreover, the fact that the accused products must read an identifier of some sort can be inferred from the allegations that these accused products can distinguish and operate on IDs from varying jurisdictions, many with varying formats. (See SAC, Ex. F at 2.) In order to accurately read these IDs from various jurisdictions, it is reasonable to infer that the accused products must, at some point, utilize an identifier and determine which jurisdiction the license is from.

Furthermore, Intellicheck has adequately pleaded that the accused products display a calculated age. One of the product manuals attached to the complaint shows that the accused product displays a signal after verifying the age. (*Id.*, Ex. M. at 8-10.) One example of the signal reads "CustomerAge:21-ID Accepted"; another states "CustomerAge:12-ID Rejected." (*Id.*) Honeywell contends that "[t]he inclusion of the numbers '21' and '12' are not alleged to be a person's calculated age and nothing in Exhibit M indicates what the numbers reference." (3d MTD at 19.) Such a contention flies in the face of the label directly preceding these numbers: "CustomerAge." (*See* SAC, Ex. M at 10.) From that label, it is reasonable to infer that the accused products display a calculated age after scanning the driver's license. Therefore, the court finds that Intellicheck has plausibly alleged that Honeywell is liable for directly infringing Claim 14 of the '437 Patent.

### 5. Count IX

Honeywell argues that Intellicheck does not adequately plead direct infringement of Claim 22 of the '751 Patent because it does not allege that the accused product had "an identification data structure [or] a reference structure" that is used to read, store, and

parse the license and reference data. (3d MTD at 20.) Honeywell additionally states that Intellicheck "does not allege that the accused products include any of [the] elements" of Claim 32. (*Id.*)

As was the case with the other counts of direct infringement, although Intellicheck does not use the exact words present in the '751 Patent, Intellicheck has adequately pleaded factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that Honeywell is liable for the infringement alleged. For instance, although the complaint does not use the term "identification data structure" (see generally SAC), Intellicheck alleges that the accused product reads information from licenses and thus presumably must store that data, even if temporarily (see, e.g., id. ¶ 131). And although the complaint does not use the phrase "reference data structure" (see generally id), Intellicheck alleges that the products are used "along with a computer and access point" and support a plurality of jurisdictional formats (see, e.g., id.; id., Ex. G at 3); the reference formats of those various jurisdictions presumably must also be stored somewhere accessible by the accused products. Finally, Intellicheck alleges that the accused products parse the information (see, e.g., id. ¶ 131) and must be able to compare the read and reference information, as the accused products are advertised in their product manuals to be able to read and output information read from licenses issued by various jurisdictions (see id., Exs. F, G).

Honeywell also contends that Intellicheck fails to state the direct infringement of Claim 32, which requires a "parser component," a "reference component," a "conformance component," and an "output component." (3d MTD at 20.) But

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Intellicheck asserts that the accused products parse the information—a parser component; consults the formats of the issuing jurisdiction—a reference component; determine whether the person is authorized to perform the action—a conformance component; and indicates whether or not the person can perform the action—an output component. (E.g., SAC ¶ 131.) These factual allegations are sufficient for the reasonable inference that the accused products directly infringed Claim 32 of the '751 Patent.

In sum, Honeywell's motion to dismiss the direct infringement claims fails because Honeywell seeks strict conformance to the language used in the Patents-in-suit that is not required at the pleading stage. Indeed, the court is permitted to make reasonable inferences from the factual allegations made in the complaint and the information attached. *See Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678. Intellicheck does more than "[m]erely nam[e] a product" and "provid[e] a conclusory statement that [Honeywell] infringes a patent." *See Incom Corp.*, 2016 WL 4942032, at \*3. Instead, the complaint does exactly what *Bender v. LG Elecs. U.S.A., Inc.* deems sufficient under the pleading standards of *Twombly* and *Iqbal. See* 2010 WL 889541, at \*6. Intellicheck describes the Patents-insuit, names the accused products, and details how the accused products do what the Patents-in-suit protect. *See id.* Therefore, Intellicheck raises plausible claims that the accused products are directly infringing the Patents-in-suit. *See id.* Accordingly, the court denies Honeywell's motion to dismiss the direct infringement counts.

# C. Indirect Infringement Counts

"Whoever actively induces infringement of a patent shall be liable as an infringer." 35 U.S.C. § 271(b). To prove indirect infringement, the patentee "must show

direct infringement, that the alleged infringer knowingly induced infringement and
possessed specific intent to encourage another's infringement." *Toshiba Corp. v. Imation Corp.*, 681 F.3d 1358, 1363 (Fed. Cir. 2012) (internal quotation marks omitted). Thus,

Intellicheck must plead facts "plausibly showing that [Honeywell] specifically intended

[its] customers to infringe the [Patents-in-suit] and knew that the customers' acts

constituted infringement." *In re Bill of Lading Transmission & Processing Sys. Patent Litig.*, 681 F.3d 1323, 1339 (Fed. Cir. 2012).

Honeywell argues that Intellicheck's five indirect infringement claims should be dismissed for three reasons. (*See generally* 3d MTD.) The first of these reasons—that Intellicheck fails to adequately plead direct infringement—fails because, as discussed above, the court finds the allegations of direct infringement to be sufficient. *See supra* § III.B. The court now addresses Honeywell's two remaining arguments: (1) that Intellicheck fails to adequately plead Honeywell's knowledge of the Patents-in-suit (3d MTD at 22-25); and (2) that Intellicheck does not adequately plead that Honeywell took affirmative steps to bring about infringement (*id.* at 26-27).

# 1. Honeywell's Knowledge of the Patents-in-Suit

Indirect infringement requires that the defendant's conduct occurred after it knew of the patents-in-suit. *Global-Tech Appliances, Inc. v. SEB S.A.*, 563 U.S. 754, 765-66 (2011). Honeywell contends that Intellicheck fails to plead knowledge because Intellicheck relies only upon notice given after the original complaint was filed. (3d MTD at 22.) In other words, Honeywell alleges that Intellicheck pleads only post-suit knowledge, which Honeywell maintains is legally insufficient. (*See id.*)

1 At the outset, not every count of indirect infringement relies upon post-suit 2 knowledge. Intellicheck alleges that Honeywell has been on notice of the '623 Patent 3 and the '416 Patent since October 15, 2007, when Honeywell acquired a company that 4 previously contracted with Intellicheck. (SAC ¶ 16.) Intellicheck claims that former 5 employees of the acquired company had knowledge of the '623 and '416 Patents and then 6 utilized that knowledge to develop the accused products. (Id. ¶¶ 17-21.) Furthermore, 7 Intellicheck asserts that Honeywell received notice of the '437 Patent through another 8 former Intellicheck employee who was "intimately familiar with Intellicheck's . . . 9 patents, including the '437 Patent." (Id. ¶ 24.) This employee was allegedly hired by 10 Honeywell in December of 2010. (Id.) These factual allegations allow the court to make 11 the reasonable inference that Honeywell had actual notice of the '623, '416, and '437 12 Patents before the original complaint was filed in this suit. Accordingly, the court finds 13 that knowledge is sufficiently pleaded for the corresponding indirect infringement counts 14 IV, VI, and VIII. 15 As for the remaining indirect infringement counts II and X, Intellicheck bases

As for the remaining indirect infringement counts II and X, Intellicheck bases

Honeywell's knowledge only on the notice letter sent on March 8, 2016—a day after

Intellicheck filed the original complaint in this suit.<sup>8</sup> (*Id.* ¶¶ 27, 29.) Thus, for these two

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 $<sup>^8</sup>$  It is unclear from the operative complaint whether the employees who had knowledge of the '623, '416, and '447 Patents also had knowledge of the '067 and '751 Patents. While Intellicheck alleges generally that these employees "had knowledge of the Patents-in-Suit" (SAC ¶ 15), Intellicheck does not later rely on these employees to assert actual notice of the '067 and the '751 Patents (*see id.* ¶¶ 27, 29). Thus, the court presumes that these employees did not have knowledge of those two Patents.

counts, the issue boils down to whether post-suit knowledge, or knowledge gained from the filing of the lawsuit, can satisfy the knowledge requirement.

The district courts that have addressed this issue are sharply divided. The majority of district courts have held that post-suit knowledge satisfies the knowledge element for indirect infringement. See, e.g., Rembrandt Social Media, LP v. Facebook, Inc., 950 F. Supp. 2d 876, 881 (E.D. Va. 2013); Walker Digital, LLC v. Facebook, Inc., 852 F. Supp. 2d 559, 565 (D. Del. 2012) ("A defendant's receipt of the complaint and decision to continue its conduct despite the knowledge gleaned from the complaint satisfies the requirements of Global-Tech."). The minority of courts have held post-suit knowledge insufficient. See, e.g., Proxyconn Inc. v. Microsoft Corp., No. SACV 11-1681 DOC (ANx), 2012 WL 1835680, at \*7 (C.D. Cal. May 16, 2012); Xpoint Tech., Inc. v. Microsoft Corp., 730 F. Supp. 2d 349, 357 (D. Del. 2010).

The court adopts the reasoning articulated by the majority of district courts and concludes that post-suit knowledge satisfies the knowledge element for indirect infringement. *See Rembrandt Social Media*, 950 F. Supp. 2d at 881. As other courts have explained, what matters is that the putative infringer has knowledge of the patents-in-suit and continues to allegedly infringe with that knowledge, whether that knowledge is obtained through pre-suit or post-suit notice. *See id.* at 882; *Walker* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The Federal Circuit has yet to decide the issue. *See CAP Co., Ltd. v. McAfee, Inc.*, Nos. 14-cv-05068-JD, 14-cv-05071-JD, 2015 WL 3945875, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. June 26, 2015). However, without directly addressing the issue, the Federal Circuit has upheld the sufficiency of certain indirect infringement claims based solely on post-suit knowledge. *See Bill of Lading*, 681 F.3d at 1345-46.

Digital, 852 F. Supp. 2d at 565 ("[T]here is no legal impediment to having an indirect infringement cause of action limited to post-litigation conduct."). As long as the defendant has knowledge of the patents-in-suit and yet continues to engage in potentially infringing conduct, a plaintiff can maintain an indirect infringement count. There should be no difference for an alleged infringer learning of the patent a minute before the 6 complaint is filed and one who learns of the patent a minute after. And yet, Honeywell proposes a bright-line rule that would bring about exactly this arbitrary result. The court sees no reason to adopt such a rule.

Honeywell insists that if post-suit knowledge is allowed, the pleading requirement of knowledge would be eviscerated, as every complaint would be "an unfair 'bootstrap' for Plaintiffs to allege liability for acts done without any knowledge." (3d MTD at 25 (quoting *Proxyconn Inc.*, 2012 WL 1835680, at \*5).) Not so. The impact of relying on post-suit knowledge is that a plaintiff may recover damages only for the period of time that commences once the putative infringer learns of the patent. See Rembrandt Social Media, 950 F. Supp. 2d at 882. In other words, a plaintiff cannot utilize post-suit knowledge to recover damages resulting from any pre-suit indirect infringement; instead, damages are limited to products sold after the defendant learned of the patents-in-suit. See CAP Co., Ltd. v. McAfee, Inc., Nos. 14-cv-05068-JD, 14-cv-05071-JD, 2015 WL 3945875, at \*5 (N.D. Cal. June 26, 2015). Indeed, Intellicheck does not dispute this limit on damages. (See Resp. at 13.) Thus, post-suit knowledge would not, as Honeywell fears, support liability for pre-suit acts committed without any knowledge.

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Honeywell relies heavily on *Proxyconn*, a Central District of California case that dismissed indirect infringement allegations relying on the suit itself for establishing knowledge. 2012 WL 1835680, at \*7. In that case, the court reasoned that requiring a plaintiff to plead knowledge based on facts other than the filing of the present lawsuit "furthers judicial economy and preserve parties' resources by encouraging resolution prior to filing a lawsuit." *Id.* at \*5. *Proxyconn* also expressed concern for a defendant who ceases all activity after receiving notice of the suit and yet must maintain the suit until summary judgment to show that it lacked knowledge at the time its acts of inducement occurred. *Id.* at \*7.

Proxyconn raises legitimate concerns. But "the cure imposed in Proxyconn is worse than the purported disease." CAP Co., 2015 WL 3945875, at \*5. Rather than promoting out-of-court resolution, Proxyconn's bar on post-suit knowledge would more likely result in "tactical maneuvers reminiscent of the bad old days when pleading was a highly formalistic game," where the plaintiff could simply manipulate the pleading rules, such as filing an amended complaint or a supplemental pleading. See id. Alternatively, the claims would be dismissed without prejudice, and the plaintiff would simply refile an amended complaint alleging the same indirect infringement claims but with notice of the patient based on the filing of the original complaint. See Rembrandt Social Media, 950 F. Supp. 2d at 882. Doing so would not further judicial economy. Moreover, Proxyconn's concern for the defendant who ceases any infringing activity upon notice of the suit is addressed by the limit on damages; such a limit incentivizes the plaintiff to drop its suit if infringing activities immediately cease because there would be no recoverable damages.

Indeed, courts in the Central District of California have since disagreed with *Proxyconn*, holding instead that post-suit knowledge is sufficient. *See MyMedical Records, Inc. v. Jardogs, LLC*, 1 F. Supp. 3d 1020, 1025 (C.D. Cal. 2014). *MyMedical Records* held that "[a] defendant should not be able to escape liability for post[-]filing infringement when the complaint manifestly places the defendant on notice that it allegedly infringes the patents-in-suit." *Id.* Holding otherwise, the court reasoned, "would give a defendant carte blanche to continue to indirectly infringe a patent—now with full knowledge of the patents-in-suit—so long as it was ignorant of the patents prior to being served itself with the complaint." *Id.* 

The court agrees with *MyMedical Records* and the majority of courts to have considered this issue. *See Rembrandt Social Media*, 950 F. Supp. 2d at 881. The knowledge gleaned from notice of suit or service of the complaint satisfies the knowledge requirements of *Global-Tech*. *See* 563 U.S. at 765-66. Although a plaintiff alleging indirect infringement may rely upon post-suit knowledge, doing so prohibits the plaintiff from collecting damages related to any pre-filing conduct.

Accordingly, here, the court denies Honeywell's motion to dismiss Intellicheck's indirect infringement counts based upon an insufficient allegation of knowledge. Counts IV, VI, and VIII allege that Honeywell obtained knowledge of the Patents-in-suit through its employees who had worked with Intellicheck. (*See* SAC ¶¶ 16-24.) Thus, Intellicheck pleads adequate pre-suit knowledge for these indirect infringement counts. As for Counts II and X, Intellicheck pleads only post-suit knowledge, relying upon its March 8, 2016, notice letter. The court finds that this post-suit knowledge is sufficient,

but Intellicheck is limited to recovering only for any continuing infringing conduct Honeywell engaged in after receiving this notice.

## 2. Affirmative Steps Taken by Honeywell

Honeywell lastly argues that Intellicheck failed to plead "any facts showing that Honeywell took affirmative steps to induce customers to infringe any claims of the Patents-in-[s]uit." (3d MTD at 26.) A claim of indirect infringement "must contain facts plausibly showing that [the defendant] specifically intended their customers to infringe the [patents]." *Bill of Lading*, 681 F.3d at 1339. This affirmative intent can be pleaded through allegations of active steps taken by the defendant, such as "advertising an infringing use or instructing how to engage in an infringing use." *Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc. v. Grokster, Ltd.*, 545 U.S. 9113, 936 (2005). "Courts have found inducement allegations sufficient when, for example, the complaint contain 'factual allegations setting forth the similarities between the patent claims and the advertised features of the [defendant's] products." *Bascom Research LLC v. Facebook, Inc.*, Nos. C12-6293SI, C12-6294SI, C12-6295SI, C12-6296SI, C12-6297SI, 2013 WL 968210, at \*5 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 12, 2013).

Honeywell relies on *Bascom Research*, in which the court concluded that the allegations of indirect infringement were insufficient. (3d MTD at 26-27); *see Bascom Research*, 2013 WL 968210, at \*5. In *Bascom Research*, the court considered a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Although *Grokster* is a copyright infringement case, the Federal Circuit has applied *Grokster*'s layout of the law surrounding indirect infringement to patent infringement cases. *See DSU Med. Corp. v. JMS Co., Ltd.*, 471 F.3d 1293, 1306 (Fed. Cir. 2006).

complaint that listed only "the titles and dates of issuance of the patents-in-suit, and contain[ed] no allegations regarding what those patents claim." 2013 WL 968210, at \*5. There were "no allegations setting forth the similarities between the claims of the patents-in-suit and the defendants' products," and no "specific allegations about how defendants have advertised an infringing use or instructed customers or their parties regarding how to engage in an infringing use." *Id.* Accordingly, the court dismissed the indirect infringement claim. *Id.* 

But here, Intellicheck asserts much more than just the "titles and dates of issuance of the patents-in-suit." See id. at \*5. Intellicheck describes the Patents-in-suit and sets forth how the accused products are similar to the claims at issue. (See, e.g., SAC ¶¶ 37-43); supra § III.B. Additionally, Intellicheck includes allegations of how Honeywell advertised and promoted these accused products "in such a way that provides instructions or directions to its customers and users on how to practice the claimed invention." (E.g., id. ¶ 50.) It further asserts that Honeywell's literature instructed users on how to use the accused products in a manner that infringes the Patent-in-suits. (E.g., id.  $\P$  52.) Intellicheck also claims that Honeywell provided instructions to licensees that allowed them to practice the claimed inventions. (E.g., id. ¶ 50.) And lastly, Intellicheck claims Honeywell's customers are indeed responding to the Honeywell literature and "using the accused products to authenticate driver's licenses." (E.g., id. ¶ 53.) Intellicheck supports these allegations with product manuals and pamphlets illustrating these advertisements and instructions. (E.g., id., Exs. G, F, M.)

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1 The court finds that these allegations are sufficient to survive Honeywell's motion 2 to dismiss. Taken as true, they detail affirmative steps taken by Honeywell, advertising 3 to and instructing others, whether they are licensees or customers, to utilize the accused 4 products in an infringing manner. See Grokster, 545 U.S. at 936; Bascom Research, 5 2013 WL 968210, at \*5. These factual allegations suffice to plausibly show that 6 Honeywell specifically intended for others to infringe upon the Patents-in-suit. See Bill 7 of Lading, 681 F.3d at 1339. Accordingly, the court denies Honeywell's motion to 8 dismiss the indirect infringement counts on this ground. 9 In sum, the court finds Intellicheck to have adequately stated claims of direct and 10 indirect infringement. Accordingly, the court denies Honeywell's motion to dismiss in its 11 entirety. 12 IV. **CONCLUSION** 13 For the foregoing reasons, the court DENIES Honeywell's motion to dismiss (Dkt. # 82). 14 Dated this  $21^{51}$  day of November, 2017. 15 16 JAMES L. ROBART 17 United States District Judge 18 19 20 21 22